

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed May 26, 2004, the Examiner's claim objections and rejections have been considered. Applicants respectfully traverse all objections and rejections regarding all pending claims and earnestly solicit allowance of these claims.

1. Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-53 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-86 of copending parent application, Serial No. 09/769,168.

In response, Applicants respectfully submit a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) to overcome the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-53.

2. Information Disclosure Statement

The enclosed PTO/SB/08A and 08B forms are being filed pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and the procedure set forth under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.


This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the first Office Action, and therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 has been enclosed herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due, that may be required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502811.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest and bona fide effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all of claims 1-53 is believed to be in order, and an early Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8323. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Andrew B. Chen
Reg. No. 48,508
Attorney for Applicant
BROWN RAYSMAN MILLSTEIN
FELDER & STEINER LLP
1880 Century Park East, Suite 711
Los Angeles, CA 90067
(310) 712-8300